



I

DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1966.

DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1966 - 1967

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

S. T. GITTINS, ESQ., J.P.,

VICE-CHAIRMAN - M. W. ALLDAY, ESQ.

Members of the Public Health Committee

Chairman - MR. C. D. COOPER

Vice-Chairman - MR. J. E. HARTWRIGHT

Messrs. M. A. Allday, R.J.Evans, T. E. Styles, M.B.E., C. Bidmead,
B. Warren, S. Wheelton, J. Wythes, J.P., J. Williamson,
and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council
(Ex-Officio).

Public Health Officers of the Council

L. Spencer Stephens, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

R. F. Fry, M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., A.M.I.P.C., M.A.P.H.I.,
Engineer & Surveyor, Chief Public Health Inspector.

D. G. Carter, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector,
Deputy Engineer & Surveyor.

K. J. Ramsden, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Additional Public Health
Inspector.



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Rural District Council Offices,
31, Ombersley Street,
Droitwich.

Telephone: Droitwich 2288.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Goodman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my twelfth Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ended 31st December 1966.

The Vital Statistics shown in Sections A. and F. are generally in line with National trends. It will be observed that out of a total of 152 deaths, ten were due to Lung Cancer and ten due to Road Accidents. There is clear evidence to show the former is connected with smoking and the Government has launched a national campaign to draw attention to this fact. Road Safety Campaigns are always being held, yet I feel that little attention is paid to such warnings. These deaths, which are largely preventable, are occurring 'on your doorstep' and many affect persons in the prime of life, so I feel it is my clear duty to bring them to your attention.

Most of the other deaths shown on page 4 are in elderly persons and must be considered as inevitable; this does not apply to the conditions mentioned above.

Measles is rarely fatal but has a high morbidity (116 cases notified). The disease takes up much of the general practitioners' time, may lead to complications and causes prolonged absence from school. Now that a satisfactory vaccine is available giving protection against the disease, I feel that every effort should be made to eliminate the condition. To be effective this must be done on a national basis.

In November I submitted a detailed report to the Health Committee on the work of the Public Health department. I indicated that, in my view, the system of combined duties (i.e. Public Health Inspector/Surveyor appointments) was detrimental to the interests of Public Health. This was not due to any fault of the officers who carried out their duties most conscientiously, but due to the ever increasing volume of Planning and Surveying work which tended to 'crowd out' Public Health. The sections of the work which were being affected were (1) Caravan Control. (2) Food Premises, (3) Offices and Shops Inspection and (4) certain aspects of Environmental hygiene.

I am pleased to report that the Council agreed with me that an additional public health inspector was necessary and an appointment has now just been made (with effect from 1st September 1967). This is a most encouraging step forward, but I am still not entirely happy about the position.

I advised that separate Public Health and Surveying departments should be set-up by March 1969 but the Council would not agree to this in view of possible changes in the structure of Local Government. An attempt at sectionalisation is being made so that two of the four qualified Public Health Inspectors in the combined department do most of the Public Health work. However, they will also have duties which I consider come under the heading of Surveying work.

I sincerely hope that the Council will review the situation from time to time, particularly as the evidence of the Rural District Councils Association to the Royal Commission on Local Government stated that - "the practice of combining the duties of surveyor with those of public health inspector in one 'Jack of all trades' is an unsatisfactory economy".

Despite these differences of opinion, I am happy to say, Mr. Chairman, that the Staff of the Department have continued to give me their whole-hearted co-operation during the year.

Yours faithfully,

L. SPENCER STEPHENS,

Medical Officer of Health.

S E C T I O N A .

STATISTICS

Area in Acres 50,432

Number of Houses according to Rate Book (31st March 1966) 4,590

Rateable Value at 31st March 1966. £516,790

Registrar General's estimate of resident population .. 14,830

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	123	122	245
Illegitimate	3	3	6

Illegitimate live births as percentage of total live births 2.4

Standardised birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population 17.9

Birth rate for England and Wales 17.7

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births 15.7

Still birth rate for England and Wales 15.4

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
From all causes	91	61	152

Standardised death rate per 1,000 estimated population 10.8

Death rate for England and Wales 11.7

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births 19.9

Infantile Mortality rate for England and Wales 19.0

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births 15.9

" " " for England and Wales 12.9

Maternal Deaths (including abortion) NIL

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births NIL

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1966

(according to International Statistical Classification of Disease)

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other Infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasms, stomach	3	-
11. Malignant neoplasms, lung, bronchus	9	1
12. Malignant neoplasms, breast	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasms, uterus	-	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	4
15. Leukemia, leukaemia	1	1
16. Diabetes	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	8
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	17	11
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	1
20. Other heart disease	7	17
21. Other circulatory disease	2	2
22. Influenza	1	-
23. Pneumonia	3	3
24. Bronchitis	5	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-
27. Gastritis	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined disease	5	8
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	8	2
34. All other accidents	4	1
35. Suicide	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
TOTAL	91	61

S E C T I O N B .

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

FOR THE AREA.

A. County Health Services

The following Services are provided by the County Council in accordance with Part III of the National Health Service Act 1946.

Care of Mothers and Young Children (Section 22)

The District is served by the following Clinics -

Infant Welfare Centres

Baptist Hall, Droitwich - open every Tuesday at 2.0 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Ombersley - open on the 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month at 2.0 p.m.

Parish Hall, Hanbury - open on the 3rd Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Crowle - open on the 4th Wednesday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Fernhill Heath - open on 2nd and 4th Fridays in the month at 2.0 p.m.

Village Hall, Wychbold - open on the 1st and 3rd Mondays in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Parish Hall, Hartlebury - open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month at 2.30 p.m.

National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil, Orange Juice and other baby foods may be obtained at these centres. A doctor is usually in attendance; a fully qualified Health Visitor is always present.

Antenatal Clinics.

It is now County policy that antenatal cases should be cared for as far as possible by their own doctor. Clinics are available however, at which expectant mothers are encouraged to attend regularly in order to meet the midwife, receive health education, and carry out antenatal exercises under the direction of a physiotherapist.

Baptist Hall, Droitwich - open 2nd and 4th Thursdays in the month at 2 p.m.

Recreation Road, Bromsgrove - open every Monday at 2.0 p.m.

Coventry Street, Kidderminster - open every Monday at 2.0 p.m.

Midwifery (Section 23)

The services of a County midwife are available without charge to care for mothers during pregnancy, confinement and for a period of ten days afterwards. She should be booked as early as possible in order to receive adequate instruction for the confinement. Visits are paid to the home and examinations carried out monthly in co-operation with the doctor, who will arrange hospital consultations if necessary. Free dental treatment is available during this period and may be arranged through the County Dental Officer.

Health Visiting and Home Nursing (Sections 24 and 25)

After the first ten days the Health Visitor takes over responsibility for the care of the baby from the midwife. She is a trained nurse who has received additional instruction in child care, maintenance of health and prevention of disease, and is able to offer guidance to the mother until the child goes to school. Particular attention is paid to premature babies and those placed for adoption or with foster parents. The Health Visitor also acts as school nurse and being an experienced medico-social worker is able to give advice to the adult members of the family on personal problems related to physical or mental ill-health.

The District Nurse is available to act on the instructions of the general practitioner or hospital; when a patient is discharged to make arrangements for domiciliary care. She carries out nursing procedures and may be called upon in an emergency. In most instances the District Nurse is also the Midwife and acts as Health Visitor, but in urban areas it is sometimes more convenient to split their duties.

The following nurses are working in Droitwich Rural District -
Miss U. Eldridge, Miss E. Hill and Miss T. Mann - Health Visitors -
Royal George Buildings, Hanbury Road, Droitwich - Tel: Droitwich 3328.

Miss Eldridge - Hampton Lovett, Cutnall Green.

Miss Hill - Primsland, Newland, Hadzor, Tibberton, Crowle, Warndon, Sale Green, part Claines and Bevere.

Miss Mann - Stoke Works, Wychbold, Elmbridge, Crutch Lane, Westwood.

Nurse Cracklow - 7, Old Turnpike Road, Crowle - Tel: No.: Upton Snodsbury
DN/MW. 259.

Nurse Williams, - Nurse's House, Droitwich Road, Hanbury - Tel: No.:
DN/MW/HV. Hanbury 209.

Nurse Nash - 8, Perrycroft Close, Fernhill Heath - Tel: No. Fernhill
DN/MW/HV. Heath 304.

Nurse Mills - 14, Appletree Walk, Ombersley - Tel: No: Ombersley 341.
DN/MW/HV.

Nurse Roberts - 27, Waresley Court Road, Hartlebury - Tel: No.: Hartlebury
DN/MW/HV. 200.

Nurse Smith - 64, Oakland Avenue, Droitwich - Tel: No.: Droitwich 2802.
DN/MW (Relief Nurse)

Vaccination and Immunisation (Section 26)

Vaccination against Smallpox and Poliomyelitis and Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus are carried out free of charge at any of the County Clinics or by the patient's own doctor.

The following inoculations were completed during 1966.

(figures in brackets relate to the previous year).

1. Smallpox Vaccination

No. of persons who received primary vaccination during		
	the year	164 (123)
No. of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year ..	6	(1)

2. Poliomyelitis Vaccination

This scheme is administered direct from the County Health Department, Love's Grove, Castle Street, Worcester and details are published in the County Medical Officer's Annual Report.

Sabin Vaccine is now used, being administered orally in syrup or on a lump of sugar. Three doses are administered to babies at 6 - 9 mths. old and a fourth dose at 5 years of age. Adults are also strongly advised to complete a primary course of vaccination.

3. Diphtheria Immunisation (including Tetanus)

No. of children who received the full course during		
	the year	265 (250)
No. " " " " re-inforcing doses ..	265	(234)

4. Whooping Cough Immunisation

No. of children who received the full course during		
	the year . ..	254 (243)

5. B.C.G. Vaccination

The County Council operate a scheme for the preventative inoculation of all children leaving school. This is a valuable protective measure against Tuberculosis and is doing much to reduce the number of cases on the register.

Ambulance Service (Section 27)

Cases of accident or sudden and urgent illness are responded to irrespective of the source of the call. All that is necessary is to ask the telephone operator for Ambulance after dialling 999. The Service is under radio-control from Worcester and ambulance stations are strategically situated throughout the County.

Requests for hospital cars should be made to the County Ambulance Officer, who will decide whether this form of transport is suitable. Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed to hospital in special ambulances stationed at the Isolation Hospital.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care (Section 28)

Convalescent care is provided for children and adults not requiring treatment. This type of recuperative holiday is frequently recommended and persons are required to contribute according to their means. Medical comforts depots are maintained in various parts of the County by the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society. Requests for nursing equipment such as bedpans, pulleys, hoists, etc., should be made to the District Nurse or County Health department.

Persons suffering from Tuberculosis may be assisted in many ways. Tuberculosis Health Visitors work from the Chest Clinic and will assist patients to make the best use of services available. Occupational therapy is available for patients suffering from lengthy illnesses or who are undergoing prolonged convalescence. A chiropody scheme is now in operation for aged and handicapped persons, and is being extended. A Health Education Organiser has also been appointed to provide instruction on health matters in an attempt to reduce illness. This is particularly important in relation to accidents in the home, food hygiene and cancer.

Domestic Help (Section 29)

The Home Help Service has recently been reorganised by the County Council on an area basis. Enquiries relating to the Rural District should be addressed to - Mrs. A. Friend, Area Organiser, Royal George Buildings, Hanbury Road, Droitwich. The service provides domestic help for the aged, in sickness and for maternity cases during confinement.

Mental Health (Section 51)

The Mental Health Service has been expanded to deal with the provisions of the Mental Health Act 1959. The Act abolishes the term mental deficiency and introduces the term "mental disorder" which includes subnormality, severe subnormality, mental illness and psychopathic disorder. Mental Welfare Officers have been appointed who act in conjunction with approved medical officers and hospital services.

Statutory duties of the County Council include -

- (a) the provision of residential accommodation.
- (b) the provision of training or occupation centres (available at Stourport, Bromsgrove and Lower Wick).
- (c) the exercise of functions relating to persons placed under guardianship.
- (d) the provision of ancillary services for persons suffering from mental disorder.

Welfare Services (National Assistance Act 1948)

The Welfare Services are administered by the Welfare Section of the Health Department under the direction of the County Welfare Officer. The following facilities are available -

- (a) residential accommodation for the elderly who are unable to look after themselves in their own homes.
- (b) temporary accommodation for persons in urgent need.
- (c) special services for blind persons.
- (d) special services for deaf and dumb persons.
- (e) special assistance for other handicapped persons.

School Health Service (Education Act 1944)

The County Medical Officer is also Principal School Medical Officer. School Medical Officers visit all Primary and Secondary schools in the district at regular intervals.

Every school child receives three medical examinations during his or her school life, but children in whom abnormalities are detected are seen more frequently. Special visual acuity and colour tests are given at 7 - 8 years old, children in need of attention being referred to the School Oculist.

Routine testing of hearing is now carried out using a pure-tone audiometer and children with defective hearing are referred to special clinics for further investigation.

The services of a Speech Therapist are available and orthopaedic defects are kept under supervision by the Orthopaedic Sister.

Children with behaviour disorders or other problems are seen at the Child Guidance Clinic, Love's Grove, Worcester.

School Dental Service

The Dental Health of all children in maintained schools is supervised at regular intervals, inspections being carried out on the premises. Subsequently treatment is carried out at the nearest fixed clinic, or in one of the mobile dental clinics now available. Clinics are available at Bromsgrove, Stourport and Kidderminster.

County Analyst.

The County Analyst is available to examine public water supplies, sewage effluent, milk, food and drug samples. The arrangements for the routine sampling of all milk supplies is in the hands of the County Public Health Inspector.

B. Hospital Services.

These services are administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

1. General hospitals with casualty departments are situated at Worcester, Bromsgrove and Kidderminster.
2. Maternity beds are available at Worcester, Bromsgrove and Stourport.
3. Infectious diseases are usually admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester where beds are also available for the treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Special cases may, however, be sent to Little Bromwich Hospital, Birmingham.
4. The elderly and chronic sick are accommodated at Shrub Hill, Worcester, Bromsgrove or Blakebrook, Kidderminster.
5. Psychiatric Hospitals for mental disorders are available at Powick, Barnsley Hall and Lea Hospital, Bromsgrove.
6. St. John's Hospital and Highfield Hospital, Droitwich are national hospitals for the treatment of rheumatic diseases. Spa treatment is also available through the out-patient department at the Brine Baths, or privately.
7. A Thoracic surgery unit has been established at Hill Top Hospital, Bromsgrove dealing mainly with congenital heart lesions in children.

8. Laboratories are available in all General Hospitals, but at Worcester Royal Infirmary a branch of the Public Health Laboratory Service has been established. This organisation, with reference laboratories in London and elsewhere, is designed to assist local authorities in their investigations into outbreaks of communicable disease.

9. Venereal Diseases.

Venereal diseases are diagnosed and treated at a special out-patient department (adjacent to the Chest Clinic at the Worcester Royal Infirmary). Sessions are held from 5 - 7 p.m. on Mondays (both sexes - separate departments) on Thursdays 2 - 4 p.m. (women) and Fridays 2 - 4 p.m. (men).

C. General Medical Services.

Persons arriving in the district and wishing to register with a general practitioner may obtain a list of names and addresses of all the doctors available, at any post office.

The services of dentists, opticians and pharmacists practicing in the district come under the control of the Worcestershire Executive Council, 29 Foregate Street, Worcester, to whom enquiries should be made.

S E C T I O N C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supplies

The East Worcestershire Waterworks Company are the statutory water undertakers for the greater part of Droitwich Rural District. Twenty out of twenty-two parishes are now supplied by them. The remaining two parishes are supplied as follows :-

- (1) Warndon - by an extension from the Worcester City mains
(controlled by the Council)
- (2) Hartlebury- by the North West Worcestershire Water Board.
(this water is supplied from Bewdley via Stourport
and recent extensions have made available water
to the Crossway Green area).

The following table is an estimate of the number of houses on the mains and the population supplied at 30th September 1964 (It has not yet been possible to revise these figures).

Area	Supplied by	No. of houses on Mains	Estimated Population	Total (Mid.64) Population
20 Parishes	E.W.W. Co.	2,442	8,150	11,861
Hartlebury	N.W.W.Board	520	1,716	2,529
Warndon	Droitwich R.D.C.	10	33	60
	TOTALS	2,972	9,899	14,450

This indicates that approximately 70% of the population are supplied with Mains Water. The remainder rely upon shallow wells, apart from a few farms where boreholes have been sunk for agricultural purposes. 11 out of a total of 24 samples taken from wells during 1966 were reported as unfit for drinking and appropriate steps taken to protect the consumer.

The East Worcestershire Waterworks Company take their water from six boreholes at the foot of the Lickey Hills.

Bacteriological results are shown as follows -

East Worcestershire Water

as delivered into service on 19th December 1966.

Marked	Number of colonies growing on Agar		Probable Number of Coliform Bacilli	Probable Number of Faecal Coli	Remarks
	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 22°C.			
Per No. 2 Borehole Burcot P/Stn.	1 ml. Nil	1 ml. 8	100 ml. Nil	100 ml. -	satisfactory
No.2 Borehole Sugarbrook P/Station.	3	7	Nil	-	"
No.1 Borehole Washingstocks P/Station	Nil	1	Nil	-	"
Old Engine House, Washingstocks	2	2	Nil	-	"
No.2 Borehole Wildmoor P/Station	4	20	Nil	-	"
No.1 Borehole Brockhill P/Station	2	2	Nil	-	"

Westwood Estate

A number of poor samples were obtained from this private supply during the year. None of them were bad enough for drastic action to be taken and as it was felt advisable that this parish should be supplied with mains water, negotiations were opened up with the owners and the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company to see whether a main could be laid at reasonable cost. A final decision had not been made at the end of the year.

2. Sewerage & Sewage Disposal

In May 1966 following a visit to the Health Congress where I examined models of different pre-fabricated sewage treatment plants, I posed the following questions to the Health Committee -

- (1) Whether, in view of the steadily increasing cost of major sewage schemes, it was worth while asking the Consulting Engineer to proceed with more than one major scheme at a time?
- (2) Whether our Surveyor should not consider working out three or four small schemes for village areas using prefabricated plant, either on the Aerobic Digestion or Contact Stabilisation principle?

In September 1966 Mr. Fry submitted a detailed report to the Committee. He pointed out that six major schemes had been completed since the war for the villages of Hartlebury, Ombersley, Crowle, Wychbold, Hanbury and Tibberton. The only pre-war scheme (at Fernhill Heath) had recently been the subject of investigation in view of pollution of the brook by unsatisfactory effluent and the Ministry had now agreed that extensions to the works, drawn up by the Consulting Engineers, should be proceeded with without delay.

A major scheme for the village of Cutnall Green had also just been prepared by the Consultants and was awaiting Ministry approval. The cost of this scheme was likely to be comparatively higher than previous schemes and the earlier it was completed the better. When these schemes were complete the major areas of development would be adequately provided with foul sewers. There would therefore be no sizeable areas requiring major schemes, but fifteen areas of grouped development, with populations varying between 50 and 500 still required consideration and five of these were urgent.

He grouped the schemes into three categories -

Group A (Urgent) Himbleton, Bradley Green, Ladywood, Sale Green and Earls Common.

Group B. (as soon as possible) Salwarpe, Stock Green, Charlton, Hadzor, Oddingley and Martin Hussingtree.

Group C (justifiable on existing population) Torton, Crossway Green, Dunhampton & Dunhampstead.

Of the schemes listed, Salwarpe and Ladywood could be connected to the proposed works for Droitwich Borough when they are completed in 1969. Charlton & Torton should be connected by pumping to the Hartlebury sewers when the extension of the Kidderminster Joint Works had taken place.

The other eleven cases would deal with isolated small populations which make the use of factory-built plant worthy of serious consideration.

The Health Committee received information concerning the experience of certain other local authorities in the use of such plant and some members inspected the Oxigest and Wallace pre-fabricated units in Martley Rural District. It was agreed that the Council should aim at executing the programme (shown in Groups A, B. & C) within 5 - 7 years and that factory-built plants should be used wherever appropriate.

The method of carrying out the programme has not yet been decided, however, and requires further consideration.

3. Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Paper Sack system of Refuse collection is being extended slowly to cover all council houses in the district. I am pleased to see this development which has many advantages, the main one being the dustless system of collection which raises the standard of hygiene for both householder and refuse collector.

Refuse Disposal continues to be centred upon the central tip at Briar Coppice, Westwood. As an agreement has been entered into with Droitwich Borough Council to deal with their refuse, a steadily increasing volume of material is being handled. With future problems in mind, the Committee agreed to purchase a Chaseside Super Loadmaster 1000 and this has already done some good work, with resulting improvement to the whole area.

This tip will ultimately have to be abandoned however, due to overspill development and an alternative tipping site must be found.

4. Public Health Inspections

The following routine inspections were carried out by the Public Health Inspectors during the year -

A. Housing Act 1957

Section 9 (Repairs)	53	
Section 16 (Unfit Premises)	15	
Section 42 (Clearance Area)	1	
Section 76 (Overcrowding)	<u>34</u>	
	103	(144)

B. Public Health Acts 1936 and 1961

Nuisances from Premises	48	
Nuisances from Animals	4	
Nuisances from Refuse	8	
Nuisances from Dust, Effluvia	6	
Nuisances from Workplaces	10	
Nuisances from Noise	<u>5</u>	
	81	(150)

C. Drainage Problems (Sewage and Water)

Obstructions	42	
Cesspools and Septic Tank	35	
Ditches	39	
Drainage Tests	4	
Inspection of Wells and Water Samples	46	
Polution of Rivers, etc	<u>10</u>	
	176	(185)

D. Food & Drugs Act 1955

Slaughterhouse	188	
Bakehouses	2	
Shops	6	
Cafes	8	
Vans	1	
Other Food Premises	1	
Ice Cream samples	<u>-</u>	
	206	(181)

E. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

Inspections	<u>2</u>	
	2	(8)

F. Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960

Residential Sites	49	
Holiday Sites	38	
Camping Sites, etc., ...	<u>10</u>	
	97	(64)

G. Other Inspections

	<u>20</u>	
	20	(34)

(N.B. Figures in brackets relate to the previous year)

5. Rodent Control

Regular inspections of dwelling houses and business premises are carried out throughout the District. Quite a number of Agricultural contracts are held and treatment under such agreements form no small proportion of the work. The analysis of work carried out under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, is as follows :-

<u>Properties other than sewers</u>	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1. Number of properties in district	4647	758
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	752	171
(b) Number infested by (1) Rats	209	95
(2) Mice	25	-
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	1766	172
(b) Number infested by (1) Rats	102	8
(2) Mice	5	-

<u>Sewers</u>	
4. No. of sewers infested by rats during the year	Nil.

6. Factory Inspections

The Local Authority is generally only responsible for inspection of sanitary conveniences in factories, under Section 7 of the 1937 Act. Where there are premises which do not use mechanical power however, other conditions apply as they do also to outworkers premises.

The following inspections were carried out during the year :-

Part 1 of the Act

(1) Inspection for purposes of provision as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Inspections (4)	No. of Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)
(a) Factories in which Secs: 1,3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(b) Factories not included in (a) in which Sec: 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	41	17	-	-
(c) Other premises in which Sec: 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (including outworkers premises)	35	21	-	-
TOTAL	76	38	-	-

(2) Cases in which Defects were found Nil

Part VIII of the Act.

Outwork - Nil Return.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. Housing Programme

(a) Council Houses

(i) No. of new dwellings completed by the 31st December 1966.

Three bedroomed houses, Ombersley	18
Two " " "	4
Two " bungalows, Hanbury	4
Total	26

(ii) No. of new dwellings under construction at 31st December 1966.

Three bed-roomed houses, Ombersley	15
Two " flats, "	9
Two " " Fernhill Heath	20
One " " " "	4
	48

(b) Private Houses.

(i) No. of Private dwellings completed during 1966 .. 132

(ii) No. of " " under construction
at 31st December 1966 94

(c) Improvements and Conversions to Private Houses during 1966
(figures in brackets relate to the previous year)

(i) Discretionary Grants

Applications received	15	(16)
" approved	15	(15)
No. of dwellings involved	17	(27)
Applications withdrawn or refused	-	(1)
Total amount of Grant-aided work ..	£16,340	(£22,592)
Amount of Grants approved	£ 6,482	(£ 9,561)
Average grant per dwelling	£381	(£354)
Amount of Grant paid during year .	£10,333	(£7,946)

(ii) Standard Grants

Applications received and approved	26	(37)
Maximum Grants payable	£5,183	(£7,922)
Amount of Grants paid during year .	£5,599	(£2,080)

2. Slum Clearance

Rather slow progress was made with slum clearance compared with the previous year. What concerns me particularly is the failure to get the properties demolished. It will be seen that although 168 Demolition Orders have been served, only 77 have been demolished or closed. An investigation is now being made to determine how many of these houses are still occupied.

Slum Clearance Position at 31st December 1966								
Demolition	Up to 1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	Total
Notices of Time & Place served	132	10	18	8	3	34	7	212
Demolition Orders served	107	6	7	6	7	29	6	168
Undertakings accepted from owners	25	-	4	-	-	4	-	33
Deferred or awaiting decision	-	1	5	2	1	1	1	11
Demolished or Closed	33	12	7	4	13	8	-	77
Clearance Areas	7	-	-	20	-	-	-	27

3. Caravans

It is estimated that approximately 550 Caravans are normally resident in the district. The numbers fluctuate widely between the summer and winter months, due to an influx of seasonal agricultural workers, particularly in the parish of Ombersley. Some of these caravans remain on site throughout the winter for, although seasonal work is no longer available, it is fairly easy for occupants to obtain employment locally.

The sites which have been granted Planning Permission and Site licences follows. It will be observed that a three year "run down" procedure is in operation on the Chateau Impney Caravan site as it is in the Green Belt. The future of the "Eagle and Sun" is also uncertain. There are also a number of unplanned sites where site standards are extremely low. With an improvement in the staffing of the department it is hoped that it will be possible to tackle this problem.

A. Permanent Residential Sites.

	<u>Permitted No. of Vans</u>	
1. Sunnyside, Claines - just outside the Worcester City boundary on main A38 road	17	
2. "Eagle & Sun", Hanbury Wharf - approx. 1 mile east of Droitwich on Stratford road	24	
3. Chateau Impney, Droitwich - off main A38 road, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north of Droitwich. (N.B. Planning permission expires in 1968)	32	
4. Dunhampton - to rear of Robert's Garage, on main A449 Road to Kidderminster	24	
5. "Fruiterer's Arms", Ombersley - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of main A449 Road to Uphampton	<u>20.</u>	
Total	<u>117</u>	117

B. Holiday Sites

1. "Fruiterer's Arms", Ombersley (as above)	30	
2. Wharf Hotel, Holt Fleet on left side of main road approaching bridge over river Severn from Ombersley	44	
3. Bricks Farm, Holt Fleet - on right side of main road approaching bridge over river Severn	107	
4. Winnall Farm, Winnall, Nr. Stourport - east bank of river Severn, 2 miles south of Stourport . .	48	
5. Mutton Hall, Boreley - east bank of river Severn opposite the Lenchford Hotel	10	
6. Mill House, Hawford - on main A449 road, 4 miles north of Worcester	15	
7. "Clarelands", Totton, Nr. Stourport (not yet developed)	<u>90</u>	
	<u>344</u>	<u>344</u>
Sites with Planning Permission Grand Total		<u>461.</u>

SECTION E.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Food Premises

One hundred per cent Meat Inspection has always been carried out (see Table opposite). Apart from this, it has not been possible to inspect many Food Premises or proceed with inspections under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. (see D. & E. page 14). With an additional public health inspector it is hoped that the position will steadily improve.

2. Ice Cream and Milk

Forty-five shop premises are registered for the sale of Ice-Cream, all offering the pre-packed product only. Soft ice-cream is only sold from mobile vehicles operating from other districts. Unfortunately no sampling was possible during the year.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations are largely administered by Worcestershire County Council. There are three pasteurisation plants in the district and the County Public Health Inspector has samples taken from a variety of sources.

The samples taken during 1966 were as follows :-

Pasteurised Milk	72
Sterilized Milk	2
Raw (Tuberculin Tested)	<u>13</u>
Total	<u>87</u>

There were two failures on the Methylene Blue test for Raw Milk. Also some positive Ring Tests were obtained for Brucella Abortus infection.

In this case it was necessary for me to serve a Notice under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations instructing the Producers retailer to send all Milk for heat-treatment. It was necessary to continue this order for six months and before withdrawal the person concerned had decided it was in his interest to have all the milk pasteurised on a permanent basis.

3. Food & Drugs

Worcestershire County Council are the Food & Drug Authority. The Food and Drug Inspectors operate from Stourport, collecting samples and submitting them to the County Analyst. Being an agricultural district much of this work is in respect of chemical samples on milk. The results are normally published by the County Analyst.

4. Meat Inspection.

There is one licenced private slaughterhouse at Ombersley, the following meat was inspected during 1966 :-

	Cattle including cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	132	27	1461	380
Number inspected	132	27	1461	380
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	1	2	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	9	Nil	8	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	6.8%	Nil	0.54%	1.5%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u> Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	1	Nil	Nil	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	.75%	Nil	Nil	0.26%
Cysticercosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

S E C T I O N F .

Incidence of Infectious Disease

The following table shows the incidence of Infectious Disease in relation to Age in the Rural District during 1966.

Disease	Under one year	1 - 15 yrs.	16 - 25 yrs.	Adult	Total
1. Scarlatina	-	9	-	-	9
2. Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-
3. Measles	-	114	1	1	116
4. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-
5. Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-
6. Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	1	-	4	5
7. Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-
8. Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
9. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
10. Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-
11. Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-
12. Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-

Tuberculosis 1966

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register are as follows :-

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
Cases on the Register at 1st January 1966	15	9	1	2
Additions - New Cases	-	1	-	-
Additions - Transfers in	-	-	-	-
Deductions (Recovered, Died or left district)	3	2	-	1
Cases on the Register at 31st December 1966	12	8	1	1
TOTALS	20		2	

After-Care Committee for South Worcestershire.

Two meetings of this Committee were held at the Shire Hall during the year. Not a great deal of work has been done as the number of cases requiring assistance has been fall^{ing} annually. Never-the-less, the Tuberculosis Health Visitors do find cases whose needs are outside the scope of the statutory bodies and then turn to the Committee whose help is greatly appreciated.

THE END.

